

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the last whole paragraph on page 2 of the specification as follows:

The kernel/operating system comprises a network protocol stack. The network protocol stack may be considered as a series of functional layers within the operating system which are configured to convert data received from, for example, processes operating in user memory, and to convert this data into a form suitable for passing to a network interface card for subsequent transmission to a remote computer. As described herein, a protocol is a pre-determined set of procedures used for exchanging information between computing entities for example such as digital computers 200 and 210 in Fig. 2. A protocol may be the subject of an international standard or a de facto standard. Data which is to be transferred across the network 250 from first computer 200 to a second computer 210 is passed down the protocol stack. For example, the data may pass through a known transmission control protocol (TCP) or user datagram protocol (UDP) layer 206 down through an internet protocol layer (IP) 207, and ultimately via a physical layer ~~209~~ to the network interface card 205.